

**INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING**

AGENDA

January 30, 2012 6pm

**Bargersville FD
51 S Baldwin St
Bargersville IN 46106
317-422-5187**

- A MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:10 pm
- B. ROLL CALL

Present

Jeff Hayes, Chairperson
Jack Kerney Sr. Co-Chairperson
Candice Ashby – Secretary
Marshal Greeson
Burk Jones
Mike Garvey
Tom Hanify (6:25 pm)

Absent

Greg Wyant- IFSAC Liaison

- C. APPROVAL OF November 21, 2011 MINUTES

Candice Ashby made a motion to approve as submitted. Jack Kerney seconded motion. Motion passed.

- D. CERTIFICATIONS REPORT, RICK ARCHER

Rick Archer was not present. Certifications for the last quarter are down 33% compared to 2010.

E VARIANCE REQUESTS

1. Stan Loos requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He failed to submit his hours prior to expiration date of Sept. 2011

Staff recommends denial. He has not completed the hours required, and it is the responsibility of the Instructor to maintain his certification.

Mike Garvey made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Candice Ashby seconded. Motion passed. The request has been denied.

2. Matthew Baker requested reciprocity for Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Material Awareness. The first time he asked was July 27th, 2011. The Board tabled his request, wanting more information on continued education. He resubmitted his request with the additional information at the Sept. Board meeting. Once again, the Board tabled the request asking for information on Flammable liquid training, ventilation or LP gas training and Hazardous material Operations. He is submitting the additional information requested at this time.

Staff recommends approval based on the information he has submitted.

Mike Garvey made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

3. Thomas Van Vleet requested a variance for Instructor I. His certification expired in July 2011. Due to illness in the family, he was not able to submit his paperwork on time.

Staff recommends denial. He did not have all of the required hours by the expiration date. The staff policy has been to deny these requests. There has been plenty of time for him to submit his hours. The individuals do not need to wait until the last minute to submit the documentation. They are eligible to renew as soon as the hours have been completed for that time period.

Candice Ashby made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed. Jack Kerney voted to deny staff recommendation.

4. Scott Arnold requested a variance for Instructor I, II/III. He currently holds a Primary Instructor certification, and he is certified as FF 1/2; Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics, and Inspector I/II.

Staff recommends approval based on past practice pending his passing the Instructor Reciprocity test.

Candice Ashby made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

5. Craig Green requested a variance for Fire Officer I. He passed the written and practical testing in June 2009, but did not have the prerequisites. He passed the Instructor I in Nov 2009 and completed the Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics in Dec 2009. Due to promotional issues at this time, he needs the Fire Officer I.

Staff recommends denial. This issue was resolved with the March 2010 deadline. Craig is well past the time frame for this issue.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve the request. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

Craig Green had completed all required prerequisites prior to the dead line being given. He did not notify staff that everything had been completed so that they could be released. He did not notice that he did not have the certification until this time, and by then the time frame had been put in place. The Board decided that since everything had been completed prior to the time frame being enacted, they would approve the request.

Larry Southard, IVFA Training Committee, in the past, communications have been really bad and they are still pretty bad. They are getting better but it still needs improvement. Some people still do not know that there was a deadline given for this.

6. Greg Moore requested a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics. He holds an Associate of Science Degree from Vincennes, majoring in Fire Science and Safety Technology and he holds Bachelor of Science from University of Cincinnati majoring in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology.

Staff recommends approval based on documents submitted and skills completed.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

7. Aaron Anseeuw requested a variance for the prerequisites for Confined Space Technician. He holds an Illinois first responder not an Indiana. He would like his Illinois first responder certification to count toward the prerequisite.

Staff recommends approval.

- a) Illinois does not require backboard or c-collar training, but this training is picked up in Firefighter training.
- b) Indiana does not require the First Responder to be current.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

8. Variance request from Tim Monaghan

He spent 27 years in the Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue career fire service.

He received training in Florida in the following categories:

- Firefighter I/II
- Haz Mat Awareness
- Haz Mat Operations
- Fire Inspector I
- Driver Operator / Pumper
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Instructor II/III / based upon completion of reciprocity examination
- Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics

There are over 100 pages of documentation provided to the certification office.

We did not make copies but if there is one board member that would like to look at the material please advise. (copy will be at meeting)

Staff recommendation is we need documentation of continual training for the last 3 years.

Mr. Monaghan spoke; he has been battling an illness for the last few years, but has been assisting in firefighter training. Tom Hanify spoke about the program in Florida. It is a comprehensive program and he would like Indiana to adopt something similar to this.

Tom Hanify made a motion to grant the variance for all except the Instructor II/III. Candice Ashby seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Hayes asked about Tim's plans about getting additional education. Tim plans to take more classes and fit into the current system.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve pending his passing the Instructor Reciprocity test for the instructor certifications. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed. Jerry Nulliner spoke about the training facility in Florida and how comprehensive the training is.

F. REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY.

1. Jim VanHorn requested reciprocity for Instructor I, II/III. He is currently a Primary instructor. He held the Instructor I, II/III had they expired. He is actively involved in the fire instruction at Pike Twp. and would like these certification reinstated.

Due to past practice, staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor Reciprocity test.

James Greeson made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

Staff would like to initiate a discussion with the board about the usage of IFSAC certification and Primary Instructor certification being used for recertification purposes as opposed to actual hours as required by the Board rules.

Right now, if your instructor certification expires, and you hold an IFSAC certification, you can submit your IFSAC for reciprocity and you will get a new Instructor certification. You would never have to submit 30 hours for recertification.

We have close to the same issue with a primary Instructor certification. If the Board granted you reciprocity based on a PI, and you let the Fire Instructor lapse, you can simply file for reciprocity again using your PI. Again, you would never have to recertify for Fire Instructor.

Jim VanHorn spoke about how he had the Fire Instructor and he got more involved in the EMS side of things and kept his PI current, and the Fire Instructor lapsed over time. He is now more involved in the fire training and would like them reinstated.

The Board asked staff for a recommendation. Candice Ashby stated that this is an issue that needs to be looked at.

G. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

1. Dan Skowronski requested a review. Instructor I, Driver Operator Pumper, and Investigator certifications were revoked. The proctor called the office and confessed that she reviewed the test questions with the student prior to his taking the tests. These were retests for DOP and Investigator. Proctor stated that she felt sorry for him and wanted to help him pass the tests. Mr. Skowronski denies this happened and states that it is in retaliation that the proctor stated this.

Jack Kerney made a motion to send the Judge Bippus for review. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

H. STATE FIRE MARSHAL, JAMES GREESON

Fire Marshal Office is up to our necks in Super Bowl activities. We are over 80% complete in everything we have had to inspect. I would like to thank Mara Snyder for above and beyond during this time. I am involved in the Indiana Fire Alliance which is made up of Indiana Volunteer Assoc, Indiana Professional Firefighter Assoc., Officer of the Fire Marshal, and Indiana Firefighter Assoc. late summer we distributed questionnaires concerning, funding and health and safety oversight. The results will be on the web site .We use this information to guide us in creating legislation.

On April 15th the National Fire Academy will be changing the application process. They will no longer be using your Social Security number. You will have to apply for a new number. The application is on their web site.

I. HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF OF STAFF MIKE GARVEY.

Last year in May 2011 we were part of the NLE that Indiana used as a full scale exercises to use District 1, 2 and 3 task forces. In April of this year we will be conducting the same exercise utilizing District 4, 5 and 6. This will be held at MUTC and run 2-4 days. This is an extensive training program. Later in the year we will be utilizing district 7, 8 9 and 10.

Bills in process:

HB 1086: Licensure of Paramedic in the State of Indiana. Changes title of certified paramedic to Licensed Paramedic. Change disciplinary actions, it leaves the regulation of Paramedic with the EMS commission. This is the first step of professionalism for Paramedics. You will not be grandfathered; when you recertify you will become licensed not certified.

SB260: emergency rule making for the Fire Board, this is stuck in budget right now. It will give the Board authorization to make changes in a timelier manner.

SB 371: New National Educator for EMS. This combines EMT-Advanced and Intermediate levels into one level, 1st responder = Medical Responder.

SB1056: Tom Hanify spoke about the novelty cigarette lighters. The IVFA is getting spearing getting these out of Indiana.

Tom Hanify:

SB174: As a firefighter, this allows you to run for office. If you are elected, you would have to resign one of the positions, you cannot be your own boss, but this would allow you to run for election in your area.

There has been discussion about moving EMS Commission to the Health Department. I think this has been tabled for now.

The Pension system has not come up at this time. In 1977 the pension fund was created and it has been well funded, and well managed, and they are making state changes but it WILL NOT affect the Public Safety Pension. The Right To Work bill will not affect the Fire Service.

J. STATE FIRE TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORT, JOHN BUCKMAN

1. Mark Williams-Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics skills

This relates to an audit, where skills were not done. The instructor admitted this and the students were notified that certification must be returned.

Jeff Hayes asked if we could develop a check-off sheet for the students so that they know what is expected out of classes. This way, they are not penalized for the instructor not doing their job.

2. Audit Process:

We contact every course registered. We send e-mails, phone calls, for every class registered and they are blowing us off. Steve Walters personally talks to every instructor for the Instructor courses and explains what is required. They continue to teach how they want to and evaluate the skills as they want to. There is about 70% of the people do it right. That leaves 30% doing it wrong. No one does the Instructor 3 skills. These skills will take 30 hours to complete. They are not doing this.

James Greeson asked how many made up of the 30%, and what would be the impact if we did not have them. You are looking at about 600 individuals and with a total of 1900 instructors; the loss of 600 would not be a huge impact.

You have in front of you 3 people that have been audited.

FO3, this huge packet is what is required to complete the skills for Fire Officer 3. Tracy Rumble was the Lead Evaluator and the students had to complete every step of the skills.

3. List of Staff priorities:

Review Fire Officer Strategy and tactics curriculum and book.

We do not select the book. We have a committee made up of firefighters to select the book.

Chairman Hayes spoke about how we try to engage everyone, staff cannot do this stuff by themselves so when staff asks for assistance or volunteers get involved,

Tracy Rumble is going to video tape the sprinkler section of training so that everyone can get the same structured training on this.

4. Certification statistics, certifications have dropped in 2011 from 2010.

5. Challenge examination process

Skills are required. You cannot use past experience for certifications. You are required to complete the skills that are part of that class at that time. If you are a first class firefighter you are still required to complete the skills for Firefighter I/II when you are testing. You can find the required skills and prerequisites on our web page. www.in.gov/dhs click on certification, then fire certification, and scroll to the bottom of that page and you will find information packets. Click on the certification you are looking for. You will find everything you need. Prerequisite list, lead evaluator handbook, skill check off sheets, reference material etc.

6. Instructor III skills

Once again, people are not requiring students to complete the instructor III skills. These are required to be complete and these skills can take up to 30 hours to complete. These are not meant to be easy. These are for instructors.

7. Dave Probo, Fire Officer I; this course consisted of 130 Instructor hours.

The instructors and students were motivated to get this done.

Dave Decker assisted with this course; We did role playing with the staff at IFD and let the students of this class act out the projects they were given as skills. We are looking at doing Fire Officer 2 this year.

James Greeson made a motion to approve beta testing for Fire Officer 2 be allowed. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

8. Safety Officer, IFSAC

For the first time ever, Safety Officer is now IFSAC eligible. Anyone that was certified after July 2011 is eligible for IFSAC. Steve Walters has created the skills and headed up the team to update the test bank. The new Investigator is not ready yet to go in place. The team is still working with this and I will report at the next meeting. If you want to put a course on right now, contact Steve Walters, swalters@dhs.in.gov.

9. Board rule review and developing working groups, we are looking at putting committee's together involving all associations. We want the rules to be friendly to both career and volunteer departments. We will put a preliminary group together and have a least plan by the next meeting.
10. Open book testing for the awareness levels. We are asking for open book non-proctored exams. Mara Snyder states that the rules do not allow for non-proctored exams. The individuals would have to request variances for the students in order to be able to do this.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, JUDGE BIPPUS

No report at this time.

L. OLD BUSINESS

No report at this time.

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. LSA Document #11-730, this is held up in budget right now. There is no report available.
2. Direction of the Board for 2012. Jeff Hayes
 - a) Approved Curriculum subcommittee
Curriculum is available with every instructor book. A syllabus would be better. We are looking at curriculum as well. Some individuals are power point crazy and this is counterproductive. You can have power point in the class, but if the whole class is power point then you lose the students attention. We can give guidance for curriculum. If we can get the date the course starts, the schedule of the course and end date we can stop in and observe what is going on in some of these classes. Manuela Johnson spoke about how she did not appreciate someone stepping in and watching her

class. It would be micro managing and if she is not a good instructor, then pull her instructor. She should not be allowed to teach.

- b) Committees involved in curriculum development and submit for review to the Board.

Jerry Nulliner suggested putting a 5 man team together and get preliminary report of what is needed. Tom Hanify stated to put together 18 people, open door meeting, and give a preliminary report to the board in April and then a thorough report in June. Staff states that they will start working on this.

Students should know what is expected from them in the class. Jeff Hayes asked members of the audience, and they stated that they would like to know what the expectations are. Mara Snyder stated that she has set in classes and it seems that the instructor is more interested in getting the students certified instead of training them. Mara Snyder states that post the meeting as open door and that way anyone can attend and as many Board members that want to can attend. Mike Garvey states that he believes a course should be objective based. Does not matter how you teach, it matters what is taught. Jack Kerney states that he thinks you should be able to teach the test. A teacher in school creates the test and for the most part, they teach there test. Tom Hanify asked that this meeting happen before the April Board meeting but final report in June.

- c) Recertification, good or bad thing. Is the Fire Service ready for it?

In-service hours for recertification for Firefighter ½. Jack Kerney had a report from the IVFA. If recertification requirements become law, IVFA would like it to involve the Mandatory, 1st and 2nd class, and Firefighter ½ only. A minimum of 12 hours a year should be required, submitted every 2 years, and submit electronically.

Nothing above that level should have to be recertified. An instructor can conduct recertification classes for his own fire dept. Tom Hanify asked about the unfunded mandate. The fiscal impact statement has to be completed for this. What is the exact cost? Is this going to be on-line training, exactly what is it you would require? Larry Southard stated that firefighters are already doing the continued education, just not submitting the documents to the state. You do this all the time in the fire dept.

- d) Staff approval on repetitive variance requests

If the same request comes in front of the board every time, can the staff automatically handle it the way the practice of the Board has been.

Not at this time. When the emergency rule making law becomes effective, he might be able to be covered under this, we would have to look at it and see.

N. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45pm

NEXT MEETING:

**April 16, 2012 10AM
Westfield Training Facility
7925 E 160th St
Noblesville IN 46062
317-804-3303**